



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Great Plains Regional Office  
115 Fourth Avenue S.E.  
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401




IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DESCRM  
MC-208

AUG 30 2010

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

FROM: Regional Director, Great Plains Region 

SUBJECT: Supplemental to Environmental Assessment

In compliance with the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Supplemental for information tiering off of existing Environmental Assessment for Questar Exploration and Production, Four Bakken Formation Exploratory Wells at Two Locations, MHA 2-13-14H-150-91 and MHA 2-29-30H-150-91, completed August, 2010 on the Fort Berthold Reservation, a Categorical Exclusion has been completed.

All the necessary requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. Attached for your files is a copy of the Categorical Exclusion.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Bercier, Regional Environmental Scientist, Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management, at (605) 226-7656.

Attachment

cc: Marcus Levings, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes (with attachment)  
Perry "No Tears" Brady, THPO (with attachments)



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## EXCEPTION CHECKLIST FOR BIA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

Date: 8/30/2010

Project: Supplemental to Environmental Assessment for Questar Exploration and Production, Four Bakken Formation Exploratory Wells at Two Locations, MHA 2-13-14H-150-91 and MHA 2-29-30H-150-91, August 2010, to Authorize drilling of a second well on an existing well pad.

Nature of Proposed Action: The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize QEP to drill the MHA 3-13-14H-150-91 from the existing MHA 2-13-14H-150-91 well pad 56 feet south and west of the previously staked well. No new surface disturbances will be associated with the drilling of this additional well on the existing well pad.

Exclusion category and number: 516 DM 10.5G(3)

Evaluation of Exceptions to use of Categorical Exclusion:

1. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
2. This action would have an adverse effect on unique geographical features, such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
3. The action will have highly controversial environmental effects. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
4. The action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
5. This action will establish a precedent for future actions. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
6. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
7. This action will affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_

- 8. This action will affect a species listed, or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. This action threatens to violate federal, state, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. This action will limit access to, and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. No X Yes \_\_\_\_\_

A "yes" to any of the above exceptions will require that an EA be prepared.

NEPA Action - - - CE X EA \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Name and Title: Jerry D. Reinisch, Environmental Scientist/Biologist, Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Bismarck, ND

Regional Archeologist Concurrence with Item 7 Carson R. Moody

Concur: Affrey R. Owens Date: 8/30/2010  
Regional Office/Agency Environmental Coordinator

Concur: Will Lick Date: 8/30/10  
Regional Director/Superintendent